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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

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Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome

[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[6] the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[7] the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[9] as well as the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/200 of 15 December 1998 entitled "Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism", 65/148 of 20 December 2010 entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism" and 66/196 of 22 December 2011 entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America",

Recalling its resolution 65/173 of 20 December 2010 entitled "Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection",

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that ecotourism is a cross-cutting activity that can, within the framework of sustainable tourism, contribute to the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development,

Stressing further the role of ecotourism in promoting rural development and better living conditions of sustainable rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of ecotourism and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[10]

2. *Recognizes* that the development of ecotourism, within the framework of sustainable tourism, can have a positive impact on income generation, job creation

[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.
[8] Resolution 65/1.
[9] Resolution 66/288.
[10] See A/67/228.

and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of ecotourism to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from ecotourism activities in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Also emphasizes* that ecotourism can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environment protection, and improve the well-being of local and indigenous communities;

6. *Recognizes* that ecotourism creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging local and indigenous communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and supporting ecotourism, within the framework of sustainable tourism, and minimizing its potential negative impact;

8. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to highlight and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in the ecotourism sector and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

9. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to use ecotourism, within the framework of sustainable tourism, as a tool to support poverty alleviation, environmental protection and/or biodiversity conservation, and to base the tourism components on clear evidence of market demand and a sound economic base;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote investment in ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include creating small- and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to finance through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, local and indigenous communities in areas with high ecotourism potential, including rural areas;

11. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of ecotourism opportunities;

12. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in ecotourism policy development, within the framework of sustainable tourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating

indigenous and local knowledge, heritage and values in any such ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures in the context of ecotourism initiatives to ensure the full empowerment of women, including equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, to promote ecotourism, within the framework of sustainable tourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

15. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

16. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for ecotourism and their implementation in the context of sustainable tourism, including those for environmental protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

17. *Invites* all stakeholders to cooperate in supporting, as appropriate, local and indigenous community participation in ecotourism activities;

18. *Invites* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, developing specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in the ecotourism sector, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas, within the framework of sustainable tourism;

19. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have potential for promoting ecotourism;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote ecotourism as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.